

CHARLES REY, UNITED STATES CONSUL AT ST. MARTIN.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF STATE.

ASKING

An appropriation for the relief of the United States Consul at St. Martin.

JANUARY 13, 1859.—Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, January 12, 1859.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a letter in reply to a communication, dated the 8th instant, addressed to this department by Hon. G. W. Hopkins, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, touching the expediency of an appropriation for the relief of Charles Rey, United States Consul at St. Martin, and request that you will give it the proper direction.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

HON. JAMES L. ORR,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, January 12, 1859.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 8th instant, touching the expediency of an appropriation for the relief of Charles Rey, United States consul at St. Martin.

In reply to your inquiries for information on the subject, I have to state that Mr. Rey was re-appointed United States commercial agent for the Netherlands part of the island of St. Martin on the 25th of June, 1855, having previously held the same appointment from June, 1848, to August, 1852. At the suggestion of the department, provi-

sion was made by the act of March 1, 1855, for a salary of \$500 per annum for the commercial agency at St. Martin, which, however, was cut off by the act of August 18, 1856, which went into operation on the 1st of January, 1857.

The north part of the island belongs to the French, and the south part to the Dutch. On the 22d of December last, Mr. Rey was appointed and confirmed consul of the United States for the whole island; he will thus be required to open two consular offices, one in the French and the other in the Dutch part of the island, and the expenses of the consulates will thereby be considerably increased. The consular duties having thus been enlarged, and the office raised to the grade of a consulate, it is recommended either to restore the compensation formerly attached to the commercial agency, or, should the committee deem it expedient, to increase the amount to one thousand dollars, and to place the consulate in Schedule C. The fees of the commercial agency in 1857 amounted to \$114 46. Should a salary be affixed to the office, the fees for the *whole* island will probably amount to about \$300, and, under existing provisions of law, will be paid into the treasury of the United States.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

Hon. G. W. HOPKINS,

*Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives.*